

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for using process exceptions to provide ~~instant~~ a notifications for a distributed processes, comprising:

identifying a process;

determining a location of a critical point in the process;

determining an information source at the critical point in the process;

monitoring stimulus from the ~~at least one~~ information source; ~~at a critical point in a process;~~

processing said stimulus to detect at least one process exception;

communicating the process ~~said at least one exception~~ to a ~~at least one~~ messaging controller over a ~~first~~ communication mechanism; ~~and, if not acknowledged,~~
~~communicating said at least one exception to at least one messaging controller over at least one alternative communication mechanism, wherein said information source is not connected to the first communication mechanism or the at least one alternative communication mechanism;~~

processing the process ~~said at least one exception~~ at said the messaging controller to determine a ~~at least one~~ recipient to receive a notification and any associated contextual information; ~~and;~~

communicating ~~said the~~ notification and ~~any the~~ associated contextual information to the ~~said at least one~~ recipient; and

if the communication of the process exception to the messaging controller is not acknowledged; communicating the process exception to the messaging controller over an alternative communication mechanism.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (New) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, wherein identifying a process comprises identifying a supply chain process.
4. (New) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, further comprising providing a local warning of the process exception at the location of the critical point in the process.
5. (New) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, further comprising selecting the communication mechanism and alternate communication mechanism from the group consisting of a local area network, Internet, modem, mobile phone, satellite, and pager.
6. (New) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, wherein communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient further comprises an escalation process if the notification is not acknowledged, wherein the escalation process is selected from the group of communicating the notification to the recipient over another communication means and communicating the notification to an alternate recipient.
7. (New) A system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process, comprising:
 - means for monitoring stimulus from an information source at a critical point in a process;
 - means for processing said stimulus to detect at least one process exception;
 - a messaging controller;
 - means for communicating the process exception to the messaging controller over a communication mechanism;
 - means for processing the process exception at the messaging controller to determine a recipient to receive a notification and any associated contextual information;
 - and
 - means for communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient;

wherein if the communication of the process exception to the messaging controller is not acknowledged, the means for communicating the process exception to the messaging controller uses an alternative communication mechanism.

8. (New) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the process is a supply chain process.

9. (New) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, further comprising means for providing a local warning of the process exception at the location of the critical point in the process.

10. (New) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the communication mechanism and alternate communication mechanism are selected from the group consisting of a local area network, Internet, modem, mobile phone, satellite, and pager.

11. (New) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the means for communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient further comprises a means for escalation if the notification is not acknowledged, wherein the means for escalation is selected from the group of means for communicating the notification to the recipient over another communication means and means for communicating the notification to an alternate recipient.